

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information-processing apparatus for generating attribute information of a content on the basis of information on said content, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring said information on said content;

attribute-information generation means for generating said attribute information including a plurality of items on the basis of information acquired by said acquisition means as said information on said content; and

first storage means for storing first weight information for said items of said attribute information generated by said attribute-information generation means,

wherein said first weight information prescribes a degree of contribution given by each of a plurality of said items to computation of a degree of similarity between said attribute information and predetermined favorite information of the user.

2. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising transmission means for transmitting said attribute information generated by said attribute-information generation means.

3. An information-processing apparatus according

to claim 2, wherein said transmission means extracts a piece of first weight information matching a condition of a content from pieces of first weight information stored in said first storage means and transmits said extracted piece of first weight information by associating said extracted piece of first weight information with said attribute information generated by said attribute-information generation means.

4. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said condition of a content is the genre of said content.

5. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising extraction means for extracting predetermined information from information acquired by said acquisition means as said information on said content, wherein said attribute-information generation means converts said predetermined information extracted by said extraction means into a vector for each plurality of said items in order to generate said attribute information.

6. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said attribute-information generation means selects information expressed in terms of words from said information on said content as an object of an

analysis and generates said attribute information on the basis of a result of said analysis.

7. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said attribute-information generation means generates said attribute information by appending numerical values each representing a frequency or a weight to said information expressed in terms of words.

8. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

second storage means for storing information comprising a plurality of said items as said predetermined favorite information of said user; and

recommendation-information generation means for generating recommendation information revealing a content matching a favorite of said user by computing a degree of similarity between said favorite information stored in said second storage means and said attribute information generated by said attribute-information generation means for each of said items.

9. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said recommendation-information generation means generates recommendation information through comparison of said attribute information with said favorite information by using said first weight

information stored in said first storage means.

10. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

operation-history acquisition means for acquiring a history of operations carried out by said user;

favorite-information generation means for generating favorite information of said user on the basis of a history acquired by said operation-history acquisition means as said history of operations carried out by said user; and

weight-information generation means for generating second weight information on the basis of said favorite information generated by said favorite-information generation means, wherein:

said second weight information prescribes a degree of contribution given by each of a plurality of said items to computation of a degree of similarity between said attribute information and said favorite information of said user;

said recommendation-information generation means generates recommendation information through comparison of said attribute information with said favorite information by using said second weight information generated by said weight-information generation means.

11. An information-processing method for an information-processing apparatus which generates attribute information of a content on the basis of information on said content, said information-processing method comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring said information on said content;

an attribute-information generation step of generating said attribute information including a plurality of items on the basis of information acquired in a process carried out at said acquisition step as said information on said content;

an extraction step of extracting weight information prescribing a degree of contribution given by each of a plurality of said items to computation of a degree of similarity between said attribute information and predetermined favorite information of said user on the basis of information acquired in said process carried out at said acquisition step as said information on said content and on the basis of a condition owned by said content; and

an association step of associating said weight information extracted in a process carried out at said extraction step with said attribute information generated

in a process carried out at said attribute-information generation step.

12. A recording medium for storing a computer-program to be executed by a computer to carry out processing for generating attribute information of a content on the basis of information on said content, said computer-program comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring said information on said content;

an attribute-information generation step of generating said attribute information including a plurality of items on the basis of information acquired in a process carried out at said acquisition step as said information on said content;

an extraction step of extracting weight information prescribing a degree of contribution given by each of a plurality of said items to computation of a degree of similarity between said attribute information and predetermined favorite information of said user on the basis of information acquired in said process carried out at said acquisition step as said information on said content and on the basis of a condition owned by said content; and

an association step of associating said weight

information extracted in a process carried out at said extraction step with said attribute information generated in a process carried out at said attribute-information generation step.

13. A computer-program to be executed by a computer to carry out processing for generating attribute information of a content on the basis of information on said content, said computer-program comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring said information on said content;

an attribute-information generation step of generating said attribute information including a plurality of items on the basis of information acquired in a process carried out at said acquisition step as said information on said content;

an extraction step of extracting weight information prescribing a degree of contribution given by each of a plurality of said items to computation of a degree of similarity between said attribute information and predetermined favorite information of said user on the basis of information acquired in said process carried out at said acquisition step as said information on said content and on the basis of a condition owned by said content; and

an association step of associating said weight information extracted in a process carried out at said extraction step with said attribute information generated in a process carried out at said attribute-information generation step.

14. An information-processing apparatus for carrying out processing to select a content matching a favorite of the user, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring information including a plurality of items to serve as attribute information of said content;

storage means for storing information including a plurality of said items to serve as favorite information of said user; and

recommendation-information generation means for generating recommendation information revealing a content matching a favorite of said user by computing a degree of similarity between information stored in said storage means as said favorite information of said user and said attribute information acquired by said acquisition means through application of predetermined weight information,

wherein said weight information prescribes a degree of contribution given by each of a plurality of said items to computation of said degree of similarity between

said attribute information and said favorite information of said user.

15. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said acquisition means acquires also said weight information besides said attribute information of said content and said recommendation-information generation means generates said recommendation information by comparison of said attribute information of said content with said favorite information by using said weight information.

16. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

operation-history acquisition means for acquiring a history of operations carried out by said user;

favorite-information generation means for generating favorite information of said user on the basis of an operation history acquired by said operation-history acquisition means as said history of operations carried out by said user; and

weight-information generation means for generating said weight information on the basis of said favorite information generated by said favorite-information generation means,

wherein said recommendation-information generation

means generates said recommendation information through comparison of said favorite information with said attribute information by using said weight information generated by said weight-information generation means.

17. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said weight information is information revealing a favorite preferred by said user as a characteristic favorite, which is used for selecting a specific piece among pieces of said attribute information of said content, rather than a generally preferred favorite.

18. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said weight information is information revealing an item of importance to said user among items composing said attribute information of said content.

19. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said weight information is information revealing an item indicating a content liked by said user among items composing said attribute information of said content.

20. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said weight information is information revealing an item indicating a content

disliked by said user among items composing said attribute information of said content.

21. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising operation input means for receiving an operation input from said user, wherein said weight information is set in accordance with an operation input entered by said user to said operation input means.

22. An information-processing method for an information-processing apparatus which carries out processing to select a content matching a favorite of the user, said information-processing method comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring information of setting weight information prescribing a degree of contribution to computation of a degree of similarity between information composed of a plurality of items to serve as attribute information associated with said content and information composed of a plurality of items to serve as predetermined favorite information associated with said user where said contribution is contribution given by each of a plurality of said items;

a computation step of computing a degree of similarity between said attribute information and said favorite information on the basis of information acquired in a process carried out at said acquisition step as said

information of setting said weight information; and

a recommendation-information generation step of generating recommendation information revealing a content matching a favorite of said user through use of a computation result obtained in a process carried out at said computation step.

23. A recording medium for storing a computer-program to be executed by a computer to carry out processing to select a content matching a favorite of the user, said computer-program comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring information of setting weight information prescribing a degree of contribution to computation of a degree of similarity between information composed of a plurality of items to serve as attribute information associated with said content and information composed of a plurality of items to serve as predetermined favorite information associated with said user where said contribution is contribution given by each of a plurality of said items;

a computation step of computing a degree of similarity between said attribute information and said favorite information on the basis of information acquired in a process carried out at said acquisition step as said information of setting said weight information; and

a recommendation-information generation step of generating recommendation information revealing a content matching a favorite of said user through use of a computation result obtained in a process carried out at said computation step.

24. A computer-program to be executed by a computer to carry out processing to select a content matching a favorite of the user, said computer-program comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring information of setting weight information prescribing a degree of contribution to computation of a degree of similarity between information composed of a plurality of items to serve as attribute information associated with said content and information composed of a plurality of items to serve as predetermined favorite information associated with said user where said contribution is contribution given by each of a plurality of said items;

a computation step of computing a degree of similarity between said attribute information and said favorite information on the basis of information acquired in a process carried out at said acquisition step as said information of setting said weight information; and

a recommendation-information generation step of

generating recommendation information revealing a content matching a favorite of said user through use of a computation result obtained in a process carried out at said computation step.

25. An information-processing system comprising a first information-processing apparatus for generating attribute information of a content on the basis of information on said content and a second information-processing apparatus for carrying out processing to select said content matching a favorite of the user on the basis of information received from said first information-processing apparatus as said attribute information of said content,

said first information-processing apparatus comprising:

first acquisition means for acquiring said information on said content;

attribute-information generation means for generating said attribute information including a plurality of items on the basis of information acquired by said first acquisition means as said information on said content;

first storage means for storing first weight information for items of said attribute information

generated by said attribute-information generation means;
and

transmission means for extracting a piece of said first weight information matching a condition owned by said content from pieces of said first weight information stored in said first storage means, associating said extracted first weight information with said attribute information generated by said attribute-information generation means and transmitting said first weight information and said attribute information,

said second information-processing apparatus comprising:

second acquisition means for acquiring information including a plurality of items as said attribute information of said content and said first weight information;

second storage means for storing information including a plurality of said items to serve as favorite information of said user; and

recommendation-information generation means for generating recommendation information revealing a content matching said favorite of said user by computing a degree of similarity between information stored in said second storage means as said favorite information of said user

and said attribute information acquired by said second acquisition means through application of at least either said first weight information or second weight information different from said first weight information,

wherein said first weight information and said second weight information each prescribe a degree of contribution given by each of a plurality of said items to computation of said degree of similarity between said attribute information and said favorite information of said user.

26. An information-processing apparatus for carrying out processing to select a content matching a favorite of the user, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring attribute information of said content; and

bias-information generation means for generating, on the basis of first information showing said favorite of said user and second information showing a generally preferred favorite, third information revealing a bias of said favorite of said user as a bias with respect to said generally preferred favorite.

27. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein:

said attribute information, said first information

and said third information each comprise a plurality of items; and

selection means further provided in said information-processing apparatus selects a content matching said favorite of said user by computation of a degree of similarity between said attribute information and said first information for each of said items through use of said third information.

28. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein:

said first information and said second information each comprise a plurality of items; and

as said third information, said bias-information generation means generates information revealing said items each having a low degree of similarity between said first information and said second information.

29. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:

operation-history acquisition means for acquiring a history of operations carried out by said user; and

favorite-information generation means for generating said first information on the basis of a history acquired by said operation-history acquisition means as said history of operations carried out by said

user.

30. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said bias-information generation means generates said third information by:

counting the number of contents, which said user selects from those pertaining to a predetermined group and views, for each of predetermined items to result in a first value and using said first value as said first information;

counting the number of all said contents pertaining to said predetermined group for each of said predetermined items to result in a second value and using said second value as said second information; and

normalizing said first value through use of said second value to result in said third information.

31. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said predetermined group of contents is a set of contents broadcasted or distributed during a predetermined period of time.

32. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said bias-information generation means generates said third information by:

taking each of sets each consisting of contents as one of a plurality of said predetermined groups of

contents where said sets are broadcasted or distributed during different periods of times;

computing a plurality of said first and second values for said predetermined groups of contents; and

normalizing each of said first values through use of said second values computed for the same group of contents as said first value as said second value corresponding to said first value to result in said third information.

33. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 30, wherein each of said predetermined groups of contents is a set of contents broadcasted or distributed during a predetermined period of time.

34. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said first information is said attribute information associated with said content as information revealing an item indicating that said content is a favorite of said user.

35. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said first information is said attribute information associated with said content as information revealing an item indicating that said content is disliked by said user.

36. An information-processing method for an

information-processing apparatus which carries out processing to select a content matching a favorite of the user, said information-processing method comprising:

- a first acquisition step of acquiring first information showing said favorite of said user;

- a second acquisition step of acquiring second information showing a generally preferred favorite; and

- a bias-information generation step of generating third information revealing a bias of said favorite of said user as a bias with respect to said generally preferred favorite on the basis of said first information acquired in a process carried out at said first acquisition step and said second information acquired in a process carried out at said second acquisition step.

37. A recording medium for storing a computer-program to be executed by a computer to carry out processing to select a content matching a favorite of the user, said computer-program comprising:

- a first acquisition step of acquiring first information showing said favorite of said user;

- a second acquisition step of acquiring second information showing a generally preferred favorite; and

- a bias-information generation step of generating third information revealing a bias of said favorite of

said user as a bias with respect to said generally preferred favorite on the basis of said first information acquired in a process carried out at said first acquisition step and said second information acquired in a process carried out at said second acquisition step.

38. A computer-program to be executed by a computer to carry out processing to select a content matching a favorite of the user, said computer-program comprising:

a first acquisition step of acquiring first information showing said favorite of said user;

a second acquisition step of acquiring second information showing a generally preferred favorite; and

a bias-information generation step of generating third information revealing a bias of said favorite of said user as a bias with respect to said generally preferred favorite on the basis of said first information acquired in a process carried out at said first acquisition step and said second information acquired in a process carried out at said second acquisition step.